



MEETING MINUTES / 17 JULY 2018

ATTENDANCE:

Present: Farley, Showell (telephone), Bradley, Johnson, Lopez, Magner, McMullen, Newstadt, Sarg, Seppala (telephone), and Stewart (telephone) **73.3%**

Excused: Armbruster, Baldwin, Lardizzone, Newman,

Guests: Jessica Finan (Home of the Brave), Liz Byers-Jiron, Dave Skocik (DE Veterans Coalition), Mindy Bacchus (Connections), Kim McMullen

CHAIRMAN'S OPENING REMARKS:

Requested moment of silence

- For Afghanistan Killed in Action

Requested submissions for Commissioner Job Descriptions

- Can email to Director Kirby

- Can review state law on commissioner selection process

Chairperson and Vice Chairperson nominees needed for September meeting

MEETING MINUTES:

Approved, motions: Newstadt and Sarg

ADMINISTRATIVE REMARKS:

Wilmington VAMC – Vince Kane, Director (telephone)

Medical center continues to focus on quality of care

Department of Veterans Affairs quality rankings

- Wilmington is in the top third percentile

Veteran satisfaction continues to be a key focus

Community Living Center rankings

- Wilmington is in the higher satisfaction categories

- High supportive services

Medical center is working on interior appearance (e.g. furniture, paint, etc.)

Hospice services will be restored following new fiscal year

Waiting solicitation for Dover clinic expansion request

- Developers are eager to bid on project

Adding staff

- New nursing executive

- Recruiting nursing personnel

Benefits office building upgrade bids are upcoming

- Anticipate a spring 2019 start

Parking garage contract awarded

- Anticipate a March 2019 start

The VA Mission Act of 2018 was signed by the President

- Establishes Community Care Programs

- Provides care through community providers for veterans enrolled in the VA healthcare system

Health Net contract ends 30 September and a new vendor is being sought

- Unfortunately Health Net is experiencing problems paying providers

25 July / 1500: Town Hall meeting, featuring VISN 4 Director Mike Adelman, in building 5

8 August / 1000 – 1400: Resource Fair at Delaware Vets Post 2, Dover
(Sarg) has the salary discrepancy for Sussex County employees been resolved?
Working with U.S. Delegation to review Delaware staff salaries
(Bradley) Is Logic Mark affiliated with the Department of Veterans Affairs? Received a pamphlet regarding veteran assistance
Please forward the document for review

Delaware Veterans Home (DVH) – Bill Peterson, Director:

Not present

Home of the Brave, Director Jessica Finan:

13 Males, 2 openings
3 Females, 5 openings
Revitalized Surface Cleaning provided free power washing services for the homes' exteriors
- Austin Moore owner

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Liz Byers-Jiron
20 Jul: Clothing donation pick-up at Representative Dave Wilson's property
- Emphasizing "dress for success"
- Partnering with American Thrift Store
DHSS dental van has been confirmed for Stand Down
Stand Down, 23 September / 0900 is for all veterans, not just homeless veterans

Dave Skocik

Recounted how during the departmental conference, the American Legion's adjutant challenged their posts to donate to the Delaware Veterans Trust Fund
Will draft and forward a letter to departmental commanders asking to consider Delaware Veterans Trust Fund donations

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Bear Veterans Memorial Cemetery, Commissioner Armbruster:

Interments – 77

Millsboro Veterans Memorial Cemetery, Commissioner Bradley:

Interments – 27

Health and Human Services, Commissioner Sarg:

Delta Dental will no longer cover military retirees effective 30 September
- Retirees can choose from other dental carriers via <https://www.opm.gov/healthcare-insurance/dental-vision/>

Legislative Affairs, Commissioner McMullen:

No commission legislative recommendations were considered for legislation
HB 368 for Green Alert passed the House and was assigned to the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee
HB 298 license plate for Honorable Discharged Veterans passed and is awaiting Governor action
HB 26 granting high school diplomas to combat veterans passed and was signed
Grant and Aide was restored to applicable Veteran Service Organizations

ORGANIZATIONAL REPORTS:

Commissioner McMullen (Air Force Sergeants Association - AFSA)

7 Jul: Attended Freedom 5K Run/Walk/Roll

11 Jul: Attended chapter meeting

- Briefed commission activities, legislative initiatives, and retiree dental plan
- Received base Retiree Day information
- Chapter volunteered at Delaware Veterans Home and soup kitchen
- Chapter fundraiser, Greene Turtle, 12 Jul
- Committee was formed for base POW/MIA ceremony

13 Jul: Attended Executive Committee meeting

25 – 29 Aug: Professional Airmen's Conference, San Antonio

Commissioner Armbruster (American Legion - AL)

25 and 27 Jun: Attended DE Air National Guard deployment events

10 Jul: Attended Service Officers' meeting at Wilmington VAMC

13 Jul: Attended DE Army National Guard, Dagsboro Readiness Center's Ribbon Cutting

6 – 7 Jul: State Convention at Dover Downs

- New State Commander, James Steward

24 – 30 Aug: National Convention, Minneapolis, MN

Commissioner Bradley (American Veterans - AmVets)

Attended Bear and Bridge Memorial Day Ceremonies, plus Millsboro Flag Day Ceremony

2 Jul: Post 2 hosted 13th annual crab race

- Open to the public and well attended
- Monies raised by Sons of AmVets will support local charities

7 – 11 Aug: National Convention, Orlando

Following passage of the VA Mission Act, AmVets followed through on ensuring greater accountability in delivery of veteran healthcare. AmVets is partnering with Care Source, health plan manager, to design, implement, and evaluate a new healthcare framework involving VA and community provided services

Commissioner Lardizzone (Disabled American Veterans - DAV)

7 Jul: Attended 5K Freedom Run/Walk/Roll

10 Jul: Attended Wilmington VA VSO meeting

11 Jul: Attended Women's monument meeting

12 – 18 Jul: Attending National Convention, Reno

Commissioner Johnson (Korean War Veterans Association - KWVA)

Chapter 1 is on summer break

19 Jul: Hanna Kim worldwide tour will stop at Korean War monument, Delaware Park

- South Korean native who maintain Korean War awareness for those veterans

Raising monies for proposed Korean War Wall in Washington, DC

Commissioner Farley (Marine Corps League - MCL)

Central Delaware and Thomas Holcomb detachments contributed as gold sponsors for Freedom 5K Run/Walk/Roll

Commissioner Sarg (Military Officers Association of America - MOAA)

18 Jun: Attended DE Veterans Home meeting on new dental suite

7 Jul: Attended Freedom 5K Run/Walk/Roll

- Gold sponsor

11 Jul: Attended Women's Memorial meeting

16 Jul: Panel member DE Veterans Home interviews for new accountant

Commissioner Magner (Military Order of the Purple Heart - MOPH) excused but presented notes

30 Jul – 3 Aug: National convention, Spokane, WA

National Service Officer (New Jersey) and Area I Manager will review Delaware claims

Chapters 1787 (Sussex) and 9377 (New Castle) are on summer break and will resume in September

Commissioner Newman (Veterans of Foreign Wars - VFW)

Commissioner Baldwin (Vietnam Veterans of America – VVA) excused by provided notes

Funding is complete for Pearl Harbor Memorial at Lake Como

- Dedication is 7 Dec

- Joint VVA and town venture

Still working with General Vavala and Dr. Andrzejewski to create veterans' education resource center on a local campus, open to all student veteran association members

- Met with Delaware Tech President Dr. Brainard's

23 - 27 Jul: Presenting a "Principals Perspective on JROTC" seminar in San Diego to 160 retiring Navy and Marine Corps senior enlisted and senior officers

Commissioner Showell (At Large, affiliated with Delaware National Guard)

Chicks for Charity, supporting the DVTF, will host a fundraising dinner on 18 September / 1800

- Hooked Seafood and Martini Bar, Rehoboth

Commissioner Newstadt (At Large, affiliated with Jewish War Veterans)

Attended Wilmington VA VSO meeting

Jewish War Veterans hosts monthly bingo at Wilmington VAMC

Commissioner Seppala (At Large, affiliated with Military Order of World Wars)

6 – 11 Aug: National convention, Augusta, GA

Commissioner Lopez (At Large, affiliated with Delaware Veterans)

21 Jun: Attended Veterans Stand Down meeting

7 Jul: Attended Freedom 5K Run/Walk/Roll

10 Jul: Attended Wilmington VA VSO meeting

12 Jul: Attended Women's Monument meeting

17 Jul: Attending HB 192, Women Veterans License Plate signing

27 Jul / 0800: DelVets Post 1 Golf Tournament, Rock Manor Golf Course

Aug: DelVets Post 1 hall renovations

15 Sep / 1600 – 1900: DelVets Post 2 Crab Feast

DelVets is interested in hosting a commission meeting in New Castle

Commissioner Stewart (At Large, affiliated with student veterans associations)

Convoy of Hope Dover, civilian community event similar to Stand Down is being planned for 13 Jul 19

- Will feature a tent area for veteran resources

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS:

DVTF: Requests 8, Granted 5 (62.5%), Awarded \$7,702.20 and Balance \$65,990.00

TERM COMPLETION:

Lardizzone: 21 October 2018

EVENTS:

19 Jul / 0830: Delaware Joining Forces meeting, Adams State Service Center, Georgetown

24 Jul / 1730: Friends of Delaware Veterans Meeting, DCVA

25 Jul / 1500 – 1600: Veterans Resource Benefits Fair and Town Hall, Wilmington VAMC, Building 5

5 Aug / 1500: COL Showell's Retirement Formation, Sharpe-Riley Conference Center Building 115, Bethany Beach Training Site

5 Aug / 1630: COL Showell's Retirement Dinner, Irish Eyes Pub and Restaurant, 213 Anglers Road, Lewes

16 Aug / 0830: Delaware Joining Forces meeting, Biden Center, New Castle

20 Aug / 1000 – 1400: Congressional Delegation Veterans Job Fair, Wilmington University Dover Campus, 3282 N. DuPont Highway, Dover

7 Sep / 1000 – 1400: Congressional Delegation Veterans Job Fair, Middletown Fire Hall, 27 W. Green Street, Middletown

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Commissioner Job Descriptions (OPEN)

- Commissioner feedback/submissions due by August meeting
- Commissioner Sarg provided feedback (see attachment)

NEW BUSINESS:

Proposed moving September's meeting to Wednesday, 19 September / 1000

- Deconflicts with Delaware Tech's 18 September Economic Summit (supported by commission)

ITEMS FOR THE GOOD AND WELFARE OF THE ORGANIZATION:

Reminder, August meeting will be held at AmVets Post 2

- Commissioner transportation from commission headquarters departs at 0830

SPECIAL SESSION:**NEXT MEETING:**

Tuesday, 21 July 2018 at 10:00 AM

LOCATION:

AmVets Post 2, 32592 Long Neck Road, Millsboro